## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Town of Sheffield MA Launches Municipal Broadband Interest Survey

Input from Sheffield residents and businesses is sought to evaluate current internet service levels and gauge community interest in a town-owned, fiber-to-the-home broadband network. Please take the Survey to share your opinions.

**Sheffield, MA – March 7, 2022.** The Town of <u>Sheffield, Massachusetts</u> has launched an online broadband interest survey to engage residents in a community planning discussion. The purpose of the poll is to gauge public support for building a Sheffield-owned fiber-to-the-home broadband network that would offer internet connections to all households and businesses. Property owners can access the survey from the Town's website at <u>www.sheffieldma.gov</u> and clicking the Broadband Interest Survey link. The survey will be live until April 15, 2022.

Frustrated by slow, expensive, and underperforming internet service, town officials engaged Connecticut-based <u>Sertex Broadband Solutions</u> to conduct the online survey. Participants will have the opportunity to test the speed of their premise's internet connection, answer questions on satisfaction with their current service, and assess their interest in subscribing to a town-owned fiber-to-the-home network.

A Town-owned network would provide high-speed, affordable, and reliable internet access for everyone in the rural community, regardless of geographic location or socioe-conomic status. Unlike fiber internet service from private companies, a municipally-owned network would ensure high-speed broadband connections for all residents and offer more bandwidth at pricing levels controlled by the town.

Residents who do not have home internet service or need assistance can complete the survey at the Bushnell Sage Library or the Sheffield Senior Center.